Chicago Tribune.

VOL. XX. CHICAGO, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1866. NUMBER 205.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Seizure of a Skillfully Executed Counterfeit Fifty Dollar Plate.

Forthcoming Report of the Attorney General in Relation to the Rule of Pardons.

THE GREAT STORM AT THE EAST.

Railroad Travel at Many Points Entirely Suspended.

Trains Snowed in and Passengers Rescued with Much Difficulty.

Damage to Wharves and Shipping in New York and Boston.

STEAMBOAT DISASTER ON LONG ISLAND SOUND.

The Steamer Commodore Blown Ashore and Becomes a Total Wreck.

Narrow Escape of Her Crew and Passengers.

FROM CANADA.

Further Trial of Fenians Postponed Until the Next Term of Court.

The Prisoner, Michael Crowley, Convicted and Sentenced to Death.

The Congressional Excursionists at Jackson and Magnolia, Mississippi.

HORRIBLE MURDER AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN LOUISVILLE.

Gold Closed in New York at 133 1-8.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Despatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, December 28.

THE GUN.

It is now said that there is little doubt but that the Supreme Court will decide the test oath to be unconstitutional; and it is further said by some leading minds, that a decision to that effect has been prepared, which is so sweeping that it will cause the entire abandoning of the oath in future.

THE CASE.

This morning the prize case of the Grey Jacket and cargo was called in the Court. General Bates and Mr. Cushing appeared for the claimants, and Mr. Adams and Mr. Evans for the United States and naval captors. General Butler moved the Court to allow him to withdraw from the case, which was opposed by the counsel for the Government. The Court decided not to allow the withdrawal. The opening of the case was then commenced. This case presents two important questions, first, that of the right of persons in rebellion to recover property from the hands of the Government, and second, that of the right of persons in rebellion to recover property from the hands of their own people. The latter question was decided in the case of the Peterhoff, which was captured by the rebels and recaptured by the United States Government. The Court decided not to hear the case, which was opposed by the counsel for the Government. The Court decided not to hear the case, which was opposed by the counsel for the Government. The Court decided not to hear the case, which was opposed by the counsel for the

Chicago Tribune.

DAILY, $18—SEMI-WEEKLY AND WEEKLY.

OFFICE, No. 51 CLARK-ST.

Terms of the Chicago Tribune:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1866.

THE PROPOSITION OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

The proposition of the Bank of England to compensation for the members of the General Assembly, of two dollars per day for the first forty-two days of the session, and one dollar per day for every day of the session thereafter. This provision of the Constitution was made when the population of the State was scarcely more than half a million; when the State finances were at a low ebb, and the interest on the public debt heavily in arrear; when there was but a single railroad in operation in the whole State, and the motive power on that road was a span of mules. It was supposed that two weeks of time for the session would be ample, and when six weeks or less was deemed ample time for a session, no material interest requiring legislation, and no great accumulating interest on her debt. Since that period Illinois has grown with great rapidity, and has become the third State in point of wealth and population in the Union. Instead of a weekly train of cars drawn by mules upon thirty miles of railroad, there are two hundred daily trains running over three thousand miles of railroad in the State. The Illinois Central Railroad had not then peopled with actual settlers the millions of acres of public land along its route that are for forty years had been in the market vainly seeking purchasers. The times have changed, but the law of twenty years ago remains; the interests of the State have become enlarged, and the necessary legislation of the State has become more important in character, but the old limitation survives, and the General Assembly is expected, if not required, to adjourn within six weeks after meeting.

This provision in the Constitution, however excusable it may have been twenty years ago, is the source of much evil now. The Legislature has long since ceased to be a deliberative body. Few measures originate there; but very few laws are ever prepared with care; are debated and discussed; but very few are ever examined by more than two members, and nine out of ten are not only passed without reading, but passed without the formality of a vote. The Constitution declares that:

"Bills may originate in either house, but may be altered, amended, or rejected by the other; and on the final passage of all bills, the vote shall be taken by yeas and nays, and entered on the journal; and no bill shall become a law without the concurrence of a majority of all the members elect in each house.

Another provision requires the attendance of the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, and Attorney-General at the capital, and prohibits them from absenting themselves from the seat of government during the term of their office. The Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, and Attorney-General receive each ten per cent of the compensation prize as a salary.

He can not recommend,—he ordering the address of your people, consent, to prevent delay, to vote and pass bills, without reading them, or to read them by halves. Also, give, by request, Senator, Senator, or to, Senator Lemon, Lemon, Senator, Senator, etc.

TRIBUNE CO., Chicago, Ill.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1866.

THE PROPOSITION OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

The proposition of the Bank of England to grant a

Special Notices.

Medical.

SCHENCK'S
PULMONIC SYRUP,
SEA-WEED TONIC,
AND
MANDRAKE PILLS.

Watches and Jewelry.

American (Waltham) Watches.

ROSENWALD & APPLETON,
Agents N. Y. Watch Co.,
No. 17 Maiden-lane, N. Y.

Educational.

EDUCATION—In our Commercial
Institutions, Penmanship, Book-keeping, &c.

Business Cards.

BLAIR & JEFFERSON,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
OFFICE, NO. 7 PINE-ST.,
CINCINNATI, OHIO.

C. M. HATTER & CO.,
Valuable Cumulative Medicine
No. 80 Maiden-st.,
(where Packers, never cultivate.)

DESIRED ROOT!
SPECIFIC AND WHISKY CURE.
Address, &c.

City Notices.

ORDINANCE.

Proposals.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT,
&c.

Railroads.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE.

CONSUMPTION

WE WILL
REGULATORS
EXTRACT BUCHU

HOFFMAN & CO.,
Agents' Column.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

REPORTS.

THE CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET

CHICAGO PRODUCE MARKET

THE NEW YORK MARKETS.

CHICAGO

THE RECEIPTS OF
THE BUSINESS FOR
THE COMPARATIVE
STATISTICS.
THE GRAIN TRADE.

CHICAGO COUNCIL.
(OFFICIAL REPORT)

Chicago Tribune.

THE CITY.

Wife Beating.—John Daly, residing at No. 129 North Water street, on Thursday afternoon beat his wife in a very wicked manner. "Mashed" is the term used by a spectator at her. He was arraigned at the Police Court yesterday morning, and fined $50, in default of which he was committed to the Bridewell for 30 days.

Charged with Theft.—Patrick and John Cunningham, charged with three or four different assaults, upon Edward Lyons and others, the particulars of which were published in the Tribune at the time of the occurrences, appeared at the Police Court, yesterday morning, and were fined $50 each, in default of which they will be sent to the House of Correction for 90 days. The fines will probably be paid, as they are in the habit of doing.

Stealing a Horse.—Thomas Corrigan and Peter Brennan, residing on Stanley's farm, near Cottage Grove avenue, on Sunday night, were found by Officer Hoffman in possession of a horse and buggy, which they were driving rapidly. Yesterday afternoon, Corrigan was arraigned before Justice Morrison, charged with the theft. Officer Hoffman brought the team into court, and identified it as the property of Mr. Stanley, who was in court to prosecute. The case was continued to Monday, in default of bail.

Assault and Battery.—Patrick Murphy was arraigned before Justice Morrison, yesterday morning, charged with assaulting Mrs. Ann Ryan, residing on Jefferson street, near Madison. The complainant testified that the defendant struck her with a stone, and also with a club, and that he had threatened to kill her. The defendant was fined $50, in default of which he was committed to the Bridewell for 30 days.

Stealing a Horse.—Officer Conley, yesterday afternoon, arrested Michael McGee, a young boy of about 17 years of age, charged with stealing a horse and buggy from a livery stable on Lake street, near Wells. The team was identified by the owner, and the prisoner was committed to the House of Correction for 30 days.

Wife Beating.—John Daly, residing at No. 129 North Water street, on Thursday afternoon beat his wife in a very wicked manner. "Mashed" is the term used by a spectator at her. He was arraigned at the Police Court yesterday morning, and fined $50, in default of which he was committed to the Bridewell for 30 days.

Disastrous Hats.—Persons having cause to send to a retail hatter, will find that such a house, with the best of intention and intercourse, can make a mistake. Such a one is Messrs. Conover, one door south of Lake street, on Clark, who, instead of sending to Mr. Frost, the hatter, sent to Mr. Foster, and, instead of sending the hats of Mr. Frost, sent those of Mr. Foster. Mr. Frost, of course, refused to take the hats, and Messrs. Conover will be compelled to send to Mr. Foster for his own hats.

Owen' Assembly Fire Risk.—We call the attention of farmers and others to this mode of insurance, which is offered to persons from five to twelve hundred of farm or field property, at a cost of about one dollar per year, on each hundred dollars insured. The company is a reliable one, and has been in existence for many years, and has paid all losses promptly. Call at the office of the Western Union Telegraph Co., No. 41 West Lake street, and see Mr. Owen, who will explain the Empire City regulating Windmill.

Drunkards.—Thomas Corrigan and Peter Brennan, charged with stealing a horse and buggy from the residence of Charles Stanley, on Sunday night, were fined $50 each, in default of which they will be sent to the House of Correction for 90 days. Yesterday afternoon, Corrigan brought the money and paid the fine, and was discharged. Brennan's case was continued to Monday, in order to secure evidence in his behalf.

Conviction for Theft.—Patrick and John Cunningham, charged with three or four different assaults, upon Edward Lyons and others, the particulars of which were published in the Tribune at the time of the occurrences, appeared at the Police Court, yesterday morning, and were fined $50 each, in default of which they will be sent to the House of Correction for 90 days. The fines will probably be paid, as they are in the habit of doing